



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-SFUND-2005-0008; FRL -8827-01-OLEM]

Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request: Emergency Planning and Release Notification Requirements (EPCRA sections 302, 303, and 304), EPA ICR Number 1395.11, OMB Control Number 2050-0092.

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), “Emergency Planning and Release Notification Requirements,” (EPA ICR No. 1395.11, OMB Control No. 2050-0092) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described in **Supplementary Information**. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through April 30, 2022. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before **[insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register]**.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-SFUND-2005-0008, to (1) EPA online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to superfund.docket@epa.gov or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB via email to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. Address comments to OMB Desk Officer for EPA.

EPA’s policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity,

threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wendy Hoffman, Office of Emergency Management, Mail Code 5104A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564-8794; email address: hoffman.wendy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Supporting documents which explain in detail the information that EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Out of an abundance of caution for members of the public and our staff, the EPA Docket Center and Reading Room is closed to the public, with limited exceptions, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Our Docket Center staff will continue to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform. For further information about the EPA's public docket, Docket Center services and the current status, please visit us online at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744.

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments and information to enable it to: (i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and

approval. At that time, EPA will issue another *Federal Register* notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

Abstract: The authority for the emergency planning and emergency release notification requirements is sections 302, 303, and 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11002, 11003, and 11004). EPCRA established broad emergency planning and facility reporting requirements. Section 302 requires facilities to notify their State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) or Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) or Tribal Emergency Planning Committee (TEPC) with jurisdiction over their facility, of the presence of a threshold planning quantity of a listed extremely hazardous substance (EHS) at the facility. This activity was completed by existing facilities soon after the law was passed. Only new facilities that may become subject to these requirements must notify the SERC (or TERC) and the LEPC (or TEPC). Currently covered facilities are required to notify the LEPC (or TEPC) of any changes that occur at the facility which would be relevant to emergency planning. Section 303 requires the LEPC (or TEPC) to prepare local emergency response plans for their planning district using the information provided by facilities under Section 302. An LEPC (or TEPC) may request any information from facilities necessary to develop emergency response plans. Initial emergency response plans were developed within a few months after the law was passed. LEPCs (or TEPCs) are required to review and update the plan at least annually or more frequently as changes occur in the community. Section 304 requires facilities to report to SERCs (or TERCs) and LEPCs (or TEPCs) releases in excess of the reportable quantities listed for each EHS. This ICR also covers the notification and the written follow-up required under Section 304. The implementing regulations are codified in 40 CFR part 355.

Form Numbers: None.

Respondents/affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which have a threshold planning quantity of an EHS listed in 40 CFR Part 355, Appendix A and those which

have a release of any of the EHSs above a reportable quantity. Entities more likely to be affected by this action may include chemical manufacturers, retailers, petroleum refineries, utilities, etc.

Respondent's obligation to respond: Mandatory (Sections 302, 303 and 304 of EPCRA).

Estimated number of respondents: 108,556. This figure includes 3,556 LEPCs (or TEPCs) and SERCs (or TERCs) and will be updated, as needed, during the 60-day OMB review period.

Frequency of response: EPCRA section 302 reporting is a one-time notification unless there are changes to the reported information; EPCRA section 304 notification happens only when a release occurs from a facility.

Total estimated burden: 222,856 hours (per year) (includes LEPCs (or TEPCs) and SERCs (or TERCs)). This figure will be updated to account for any changes in O&M costs, burden and number of respondents during the 60-day OMB review period. Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

Total estimated cost: \$11.67 million (per year), including \$8,470 annual operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. This figure will be updated to account for any changes in O&M costs, burden and number of respondents during the 60-day OMB review period. There are no capital costs associated with this ICR.

Changes in Estimates: The number of facilities subject to section 302 is 95,000, which is the same as in the previous ICR. The reduction in burden of approximately 25 percent (36,600 hours annually) for activities related to section 304 reporting requirements for facilities is attributable to a decrease in the number of release notifications reported to the National Response Center for the previous three years, which EPA assumes will apply to the three years of this ICR renewal. In addition, EPA corrected a few minor calculation errors. Changes in estimated costs are attributable to updated wage rates and a reduction in estimated O&M costs. Any additional change in burden or cost resulting from the 60-day OMB review period will be described and explained in this section when the updated ICR Supporting Statement is completed.

Donna Salyer,
Director, Office of Emergency Management.

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